

REMARKS

Claims 77 and 164 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 40, 71, 75, 78, 79, 112, 130-136, 138-145, 147-153, 155-161 and 163 are canceled herein.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments merely cancel rejected claims); (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

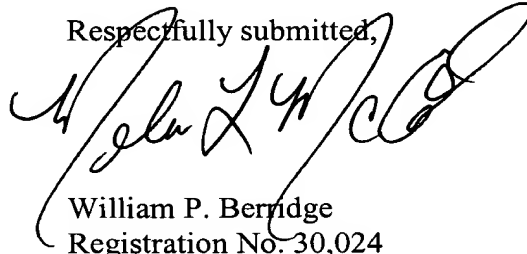
Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 77 and 164 are allowed. All of the other claims have been canceled herein. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 40, 71, 75, 79, 112, 130-136, 138-145, 147-153, 155-161 and 163 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. As discussed above, these claims have been canceled rendering the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 77 and 164 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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